
Regular Meeting September /13/2001

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
Browning Spence, Director, Strategic and Community Planning 

Review JWB Children's Services Committees Policy

At the June 2001 meeting the Board expressed concerns regarding the public expression of advocacy positions by groups affiliated with JWB (Community Councils, Children's Service Committees and Task Forces). The Board members concerns were related to how the general public could discern between the statements of the affiliated groups from a statement by the full Board. Staff conducted an extensive policy review and found no policy that directly addresses this concern.

Staff submitted proposed policy options in the July 2001 meeting. Following Board review and discussion of the options, staff was asked to present them to the JWB Children's Services Committees and Community Councils for input.

Since the July 2001 meeting, the following steps were taken:

- The Executive Director communicated with all members of the JWB Community Councils and Children's Services Committees requesting their participation in developing a policy for communication that assures that the policies and positions of the Board are clearly and accurately stated and communicated to the public.
- Staff communicated with the Committees and Councils requesting to include discussion of the proposed communication policy as an agenda item in their July and /or August meeting.
- Staff facilitated a meeting with officers and designated representatives of the Children's Services Committees and Community Councils to allow for open dialogue and to gather information in order to develop recommendations to the Board. Due to summer meeting schedules several groups did not meet and reports were not available.
- Minutes of discussion from the Combined Children's Service Committee/Community Council Executive Committee meeting and minutes from the meetings of the respective community involvement groups are being reviewed to compile a Board report.

Staff is recommending that action on this item be scheduled for the October 2001 Board meeting. This will allow the Children's Services Committees and Community Councils that did not meet or did not have an opportunity to discuss this item during the summer months to include discussion of the Proposed Communication Policy in the September 2001 meetings and provide an opportunity for participation in this planning process by all of the impacted affiliated groups.

Staff Resource Person: Dorothy J. Whitlock